



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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Summary of Public Comments on the Revised Discussion Draft of Proposed Delta Plan Amendment on Conveyance, Storage Systems, and the Operation of Both from April 28, 2017 Delta Stewardship Council Meeting

This document summarizes oral comments heard at the Friday, April 28, 2017 Council meeting on Agenda Item 14, "Revised Discussion Draft of Proposed Delta Plan Amendment Regarding Conveyance, Storage Systems, and the Operation of Both."

Many of the oral comments provided at the Council meeting were related to the California WaterFix project or Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) proposed by the California Department of Water Resources, rather than on the discussion draft Delta Plan amendment addressing water conveyance, storage systems, and the operation of both (Delta Plan CSO amendment). Comments related to the California WaterFix or BDCP are identified, below.

This summary is provided for informational purposes only. It does not represent a formal analysis, interpretation or response to comments received to-date on the Delta Plan CSO amendment. A full video and audio recording of the April 28, 2017 Council meeting can be found on the Council's website, and public comments are included in the April 27-28, 2017 Meeting Summary (May 25, 2017 Council meeting, Agenda Item 5).

The comments below are organized by common themes.

Summary of Public Comments on New and Improved Water Conveyance

- Promote new intake and conveyance facilities for conveying SWP supplies from the Sacramento River to SWP facilities in Solano and Napa Counties: A commenter agreed with the recommendation on Page 18, Section I.A.2 in the Revised Discussion Draft and recommended moving intakes from Cache Slough.
- Consider potential impacts from new conveyance facilities on salinity in the Delta: Commenters expressed concerns about potential increases to salinity in the Delta resulting from new conveyance facilities. A commenter suggested revising the language on Page 19, Section I.B.1 of the Revised Discussion Draft Amendment to ensure that new conveyance facilities will not result in an increase in salinity anywhere in the Delta.
- Promote dual conveyance: A commenter supported the recommendations in the Revised Discussion Draft for dual conveyance.



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- Consider putting a hydroelectric dam on the Sacramento River: A commenter felt that putting a hydroelectric dam on the Sacramento River would be a preferable alternative to a dual conveyance project.
- Promote covering the aqueducts to reduce water loss from evapotranspiration.

Summary of Public Comments on Storage

- Promote increased storage: Commenters recommended that the Council promote increased water storage in California, with a focus on storage south-of-the-Delta.

Summary of Public Comments on Operations

- Consider different methods of operating Clifton Court Forebay: A commenter recommended that Clifton Court Forebay only be filled and water pumped into aqueducts at night to reduce impacts on fish.
- Promote desalination, especially south-of-the-Delta.

Summary of Public Comments on Attachment A to the Revised Discussion Draft Amendment, “Timeline of Major Conveyance, Storage, and Operations”

- Add the date of the release of the “2016 Draft Revised Substitute Environmental Document in Support of Potential Changes to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay Delta: San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Water Quality”: A commenter recommended adding the date of the release of the “2016 Draft Revised Substitute Environmental Document in Support of Potential Changes to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay Delta: San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Water Quality” developed by the State Water Resources Control Board. The commenter noted that the State Water Resources Control Board is currently preparing Phase 2 of its review of the Bay-Delta Plan which will focus on the Sacramento River and Delta Outfalls and recommended that the Council consider that document.

Summary of Public Comments on Public Outreach for the Delta Plan Amendment on Conveyance, System Storage and the Operation of Both

- Conduct additional outreach to disadvantaged and communities of color: A commenter recommended that the Council conduct additional outreach to disadvantaged and communities of the color. The commenter recommended that outreach materials be made available in Spanish and other commonly spoken languages in the Delta.



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- Conduct additional outreach in the Delta: A commenter recommended that the Council conduct additional outreach in the Delta and hold workshops during times that members of the public and local stakeholders can show up.

Summary of Public Comments on Other Topics

- Promote reduced reliance on the Delta: Commenters recommended that the Council promote reduced reliance on the Delta and include quantified or measureable targets to achieve reduced reliance in the Delta Plan.
- Consider environmental justice issues and the human right to water: Commenters recommended that the Revised Discussion Draft Amendment consider environmental justice issues and the human right to water.
- Promote options for addressing saltwater entering the Delta from shipping channels: A commenter felt that the saltwater entering the Delta was primarily from the shipping channels. The commenter recommended that the channels be narrowed to address the issue.
- Consider increased risk from sea level rise: A commenter felt that the amount of projected sea level rise described in the amendment was not high enough and that the Revised Discussion Draft Amendment did not adequately address risk from sea level rise. The commenter recommended that the Amendment be revised to include more adaptation measures and consider new sea level rise numbers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- Reconsider the risk of damage from earthquakes to water infrastructure in the Delta: A commenter felt that the risk of levee failure from earthquakes in the Delta [as described in the Discussion Draft Amendment] was not accurate and should be reconsidered. The commenter stated that earthquakes have not, thus far, resulted in levee failure in the Delta.
- Promote the growth of water-efficient crops: A commenter recommended that the Council promote the conversion of agricultural land from water intensive crops to water-efficient crops in order to reduce overall water demand.
- Consider the Delta Plan as a whole: A commenter recommended that the Delta Plan be revised and considered as a whole, rather than in parts.

Summary of Public Comments on California WaterFix / BDCP

A number of public comments were made in reference to California WaterFix and/or BDCP, a specific proposed conveyance project in the Delta.



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- Consider alternatives to California WaterFix/BDCP: Commenters recommended that the Council consider alternatives to California WaterFix/BDCP and other dual conveyance projects. Commenters felt that California WaterFix/BDCP would not achieve the co-equal goals and will not increase the water supply in California.
- Consider the potential economic impacts of California WaterFix/BDCP: Commenters stated concerns about the economic impacts of California WaterFix/BDCP, including potential impacts to the agricultural industry, disadvantaged communities and the tourism industry in the Delta. Commenters specifically referenced a benefit-cost analysis of California WaterFix/BDCP conducted by faculty at University of the Pacific.
- Consider the potential environmental impacts of California WaterFix/BDCP:
 - *Potential impacts to biological and physical environmental resources -* Commenters stated concerns about the potential environmental impacts of California WaterFix/BDCP, including potential impacts to fish species and the ecology of the Delta, salinity concentrations in the Delta, and toxicity in the southern Delta.
 - *Potential impacts to the Delta as a unique and evolving place:* Commenters stated concerns about the impacts of the California WaterFix/BDCP to the Delta as a place, including potential impacts to the Delta communities, recreational boating and other recreational activities in the Delta. Commenters noted specific concerns about the impacts from construction of project on Delta communities and the marinas. A commenter stated concerns that the California WaterFix/BDCP project would divert too much water from the Delta.
 - *Potential impacts to disadvantaged communities –* A commenter suggested that the California WaterFix/BDCP project would have disproportionate adverse impacts on disadvantaged communities and environmental justice issues.